REMARKS

In the Action, the Examiner maintains his restriction requirement, and only claims 6-11, 15-18 and 27-32 are examined. Claims 6-11 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Claesson et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075965 (hereinafter "Claesson"). Claims 27-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claesson in view of Anderson U.S. Patent No 4,396,806 (hereinafter "Anderson").

Applicants cancel the non-elected claims 1-5, 12-14, 19-26, 33 and 34 without prejudice and reserve the right to pursue the claims in a divisional application. Additionally, applicants cancel claims 8-9, 16, 29, 30 and 31. Claims 6 and 18 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 9. Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 16. Claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 28, 30 and 31.

No new matter is added.

The Action states that the information disclosure statement filed December 3, 2004 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2). A new information disclosure statement has been submitted herewith to correct for the deficiency.

The Action also states that the Specification needs to be checked for errors. Applicants have checked the Specification for errors.

Amended Claims 6, 15 and 18 Are Not Anticipated By Claesson

Amended independent claims 6, 15 and 18 are directed to a method, system, and an apparatus for processing or enhancing an audio signal comprising, *inter alia*, "separating the audio signal into component signals corresponding to discrete bands, wherein the component signals comprise a full bandwidth component signal, a bass component signal, a midrange component signal, and a treble component signal" and "processing the component signals with distinct processing pathways resulting in processed component signals, wherein the distinct processing

pathways include a full bandwidth pathway for processing the full bandwidth component signal, a bass pathway for processing the bass component signal, a midrange pathway for processing the midrange component signal, and a treble pathway for processing the treble component signal". An embodiment of these processing pathways is shown in FIG. 9 of the originally-filed application.

Claesson fails to show or suggest processing a full bandwidth component signal, a bass component signal, a midrange component signal, and treble component signal in distinct processing pathways. Instead, Claesson only shows processing a full bandwidth component signal, a low frequency component signal, and a high frequency component signal. Applicants further submit that FIG. 10a of Claesson shows a system that processes the audio signal in parallel paths using a low pass and high pass filter, and does not produce or process a midrange component of the audio signal. At best, Claesson shows processing a bass and treble component signal, and does not process the midrange component signal in a distinct pathway, as required by applicants' claims.

Thus, Claesson does not anticipate all the limitations of applicants' amended claims 6, 15 and 18. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10-11 depend from claim 6 and add further limitations thereto. Thus, claims 7 and 10-11 are also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejections of claims 6-7, 10-11 and 15, 17 and 18 be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 27 Is Not Rendered Obvious By Claesson in view of Anderson

Amended independent claim 27 is directed to a system comprising four pathways, a full bandwidth pathway and three limited bandwidth pathways (a bass pathway, a midrange pathway, and a treble pathway). Each pathway comprises an input amplifier, a compressor, and an output amplifier. For the bass pathway, the midrange pathway, and the treble pathway, each of the limited bandwidth pathway further comprises a low-pass filter, a band-pass filter, or a high-pass filter, respectively.

Anderson is directed to a hearing aid amplifier comprising a fixed high-pass filter from a microphone input and "a bank of bandpass-restricted channels [connected to the output of said high-

pass filter], each channel having a voltage controlled input amplifier, a voltage-controlled compressor, and a voltage-controlled output amplifier" (Anderson, Abstract).

The Examiner concedes that Claesson does not disclose, *inter alia*, the full bandwidth pathway and the at least one limited bandwidth pathway as claimed. For at least the reasons above, Claesson fails to disclose a midrange pathway. Anderson fails to cure the deficiencies of Claesson because Anderson also fails to teach a midrange pathway for processing a midrange component of an audio signal. Instead, Anderson teaches a particular order of components used for processing an audio channel, and not a midrange pathway for processing the midrange component of an audio signal. For at least this reason, amended claim 27 is allowable. Claim 32 depends from claim 27 and add further limitations thereto. Therefore, claim 32 is allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of claims 27 and 32 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response other than those indicated on the attached Petition. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. ARCU-084-101 from which the Undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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